

**Amendment and Response**

Applicant: Douglas G. Dunlap

Serial No.: 09/873,653

Filed: June 4, 2001

Docket No.: 10002842-1

Title: PRINTER SELECTION SYSTEM AND METHOD**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 4 and 15 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 5, 6, 11, 16, 18, 28, and 29 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
linking the user and the printer selection system controller via a communication link,  
wherein presenting the list includes presenting the list of the at least one of the printers to the  
user via the communication link.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 11, further comprising:  
linking the user and the printer selection system controller via a communication link,  
wherein receiving the printer selection includes receiving the printer selection for the print  
job from the user via the communication link.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 4~~ claim 11, further comprising:  
distributing the print request to the selected printer.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
linking the printers and the printer selection system controller via a communication  
link, wherein distributing the print request includes distributing the print request to the  
selected printer via the communication link.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

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presenting to the user a user interface including at least one input field representing at least one option for the print job, wherein receiving the print request includes receiving at least one attribute for the print job as specified with the at least one input field of the user interface.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein receiving the print request includes receiving at least one of a number of copies, a print medium, a printing quality option, a printing layout, a color printing option, a finishing option, a printer location, a printing priority, and an archive option for the print job.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
linking the user and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein receiving the print request includes receiving the print request for the print job from the user via the communication link.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of selecting a printer from a plurality of printers to fulfill a print job of a user, the method comprising:

registering a printing capability of the printers with a printer selection system controller;

receiving a print request and a data file for the print job from the user at the printer selection system controller;

determining via the printer selection system controller which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job, including comparing the print request and the data file for the print job with the printing capability of the printers;

compiling a list of at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job as determined by comparing the print request and the data file for the print job with the printing capability of the printers; and

presenting the list of the at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job to the user; and

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after presenting the list to the user, receiving a printer selection for the print job from the user at the printer selection system controller, wherein the printer selection includes a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
linking the printers and the printer selection system controller via a communication link, wherein registering the printing capability includes registering the printing capability of the printers with the printer selection system controller via the communication link.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein registering the printing capability includes registering at least one of an identification, a print medium capability, a print quality capability, a printing layout capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, a printing speed, a printer queue, and an archive printing capability of the printers.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of ~~claim 15~~ claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:  
distributing the print request to the selected printer.
17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises:  
presenting to the user a user interface including at least one input field representing at least one option for the print job, wherein receiving the print request includes receiving at least one attribute for the print job as specified with the at least one input field of the user interface.

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18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of selecting a printer from a plurality of printers to fulfill a print job of a user, the method comprising:
- registering a printing capability of the printers; ,
  - receiving a print request and a data file for the print job from the user;
  - determining which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job, including comparing the print request and the data file for the print job with the printing capability of the printers;
  - compiling a list of at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job as determined by comparing the print request and the data file for the print job with the printing capability of the printers; and
  - presenting the list of the at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job to the user; and
  - after presenting the list to the user, receiving a printer selection for the print job from the user, wherein the printer selection includes a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Cancelled)
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, further comprising:
- a communication link configured to link the printer selection system controller and the user, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive the print request for the print job from the user via the communication link and present the list of the at least one of the printers to the user via the communication link.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive a printer selection for the print job from the user, the printer selection including a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers, wherein

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the printer selection system controller is adapted to distribute the print request for the print job to the selected printer.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, further comprising:

a communication link configured to link the printer selection system controller and the printers, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to distribute the print request for the print job to the selected printer via the communication link.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive the printing capability of the printers from the printers via the communication link.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the printing capability of the printers includes at least one of an identification, a print medium capability, a printing quality capability, a printing layout capability, a color printing capability, a finishing capability, a printing speed, a printer queue, and an archive capability of the printers.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, further comprising:

a user interface including at least one input field representing at least one option for the print job, wherein the user interface includes at least one of a number of copies, a print medium, a printing quality option, a printing layout, a color printing option, a finishing option, a printer location, a printing priority, and an archive field.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the print request includes at least one of a number of copies, a print medium, a printing quality option, a printing layout, a color printing option, a finishing option, a printer location, a printing priority, and an archive option for the print job.

28. (Currently Amended) A system for selecting a printer from a plurality of printers to fulfill a print job of a user, the system comprising:

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a memory device configured to have a printing capability of the printers stored therein; and

a processor adapted to compare a print request and a data file for the print job with the printing capability of the printers to determine which of the printers have the printing capability to fulfill the print job, wherein the processor is adapted to compile a list of at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job as determined by comparing the print request and the data file for the print job with the printing capability of the printers,

wherein the memory device and the processor are included in a printer selection system controller, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive the print request and the data file for the print job, and wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to present the list of the at least one of the printers which has the printing capability to fulfill the print job to the user, and

wherein, after the printer selection system controller presents the list to the user, the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive a printer selection for the print job from the user, the printer selection including a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~The system of claim 28, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to receive a printer selection for the print job from the user, the printer selection including a selected printer from the list of the at least one of the printers, wherein the printer selection system controller is adapted to distribute the print request and the data file for the print job to the selected printer.~~